

**March 18, 2004**

Dear Friend,

As the only member of the New Mexico delegation to serve on the Veterans' Affairs Committee, I am in a unique position to work on behalf of our brave veterans. Our nation owes a great deal to the brave men and women who wear a uniform on our behalf. Unfortunately, many veterans in rural parts of the country often do not receive the necessary health care and other benefits that they need and deserve. On March 10th, the bipartisan House Rural Caucus organized a Special Order on the House Floor to draw more attention to the specific needs of our rural veterans. To help them, Congress must pass H.R. 2379, the Rural Veterans Access to Care Act. To view my statement on the need to provide adequate health care and benefits for New Mexico's rural veterans, please visit <http://www.tomudall.house.gov/issues2.cfm?id=8124>.

Another important topic in the news today is "outsourcing." In an effort to cut costs, many American corporations are shipping good-paying jobs overseas to countries where the workers sometimes earn less than a dollar a day. Sadly, even President Bush's own advisors have advocated such a misguided policy. At a time when more Americans are hurting, Gregory Mankiw, chairman of the White House Council of Economic Advisers, called the outsourcing of jobs a long-term "plus" for the economy. I strongly disagree. It is hard to believe that we have lost over 3 million jobs since January 2001, but Congress does not seem to be doing anything about this problem facing working families. In fact, the Majority refuses to even allow a vote on an important bipartisan effort to strengthen U.S.-based manufacturing. To learn more about H.R. 1769, the Rangel-Crane-Manzullo-Levin manufacturing tax bill that also helps New Mexico's ranchers and farmers, please visit <http://www.tomudall.house.gov/issues2.cfm?id=8322>.